

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a secure time signal from a time source to a time requestor over a digital network, the method comprising:
sending a requestor identification to an authentication server; and
using an information object to request the secure time signal wherein the information object includes an identification of the requestor and a session key for transferring the secure time signal.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[2]] 1, wherein the information object includes a ticket.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the ticket is obtained from a key distribution center.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the ticket is obtained from an authentication server.
5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the ticket is obtained from a ticket-granting-server.
6. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising
associating a request for a secure time signal with the ticket;
transferring the ticket with the request to a secure time server; and
receiving a secure time signal from the secure time server.
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the request includes a request message, the method further comprising
generating a nonce to be included in the request message;
including a service ticket for the secure time server in the request message; and
including a keyed checksum over the request message.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the secure time signal includes a reply message, the method further comprising
including a secure time signal;
including a nonce copied from the client request; and
including a keyed checksum over the reply message.
9. (Original) The method of claim 6, wherein the step of receiving a secure time signal includes the following substeps:

matching a nonce in the received message with the corresponding nonce in the sent message; and
confirming a keyed checksum.

10. (Original) The method of claim 6, further comprising
using the secure time signal to update a clock value.

11. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing a secure time signal to a time requestor over a digital network, the apparatus comprising:
a process for sending a requestor identification to an authentication server;
a process for accepting a ticket from the time requestor to request a secure time signal; and
a process for providing a secure time signal to the time requestor.

12. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for providing a secure time signal to a time requestor over a digital network, the apparatus comprising:
means for sending a requestor identification to an authentication server;
means for accepting a ticket from the time requestor to request a secure time signal; and
means for providing a secure time signal to the time requestor.

13. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium including instructions for providing a secure time signal to a time requestor over a digital network, the computer-readable medium comprising:
one or more instructions for sending a requestor identification to an authentication server;
one or more instructions for accepting a ticket from the time requestor to request a secure time signal; and
one or more instructions for providing a secure time signal to the time requestor.